

PATENT APPLICATION
Application No. 09/891,311
Paper Dated: May 12, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 999960.48063

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 14, 2006. Applicants again would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration and substantive effort given this case. The Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Final Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Final Office Action and are believed to put the claims in condition for allowance.

The Examiner stated that claims 8-9 and 12-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form if they included all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8, and claim 9 has been amended to depend from amended independent claim 1.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 12, and claim 13 has been amended to depend from amended independent claim 11.

Accordingly, all remaining issues in the application have been overcome, and the rejections of claims 1-7, 10, 11 and 14-20 have been rendered moot.

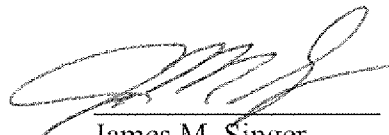
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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims as currently presented are in condition for allowance and hereby respectfully request reconsideration. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added and that the originally filed specification, drawings, and claims support the amendments. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience.

No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-0436.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JMS', is written over a horizontal line.

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